

CAMPING IN CALIFORNIA.

It has its disadvantages, but indoor life is worse.

The Hotel and the People of New Idria—Mexican Peculiarities.

Special Letter.

CAMP NEAR MOUNT SHASTA, CAL., Aug. 15.—It was my intention last month while at New Idria to write something concerning the quicksilver mines, especially as everyone is familiar with the name on account of the litigation in which McGarrahan and Thompson are the principals. My detail to northern California interfered somewhat with my plans, and I write at the first favorable opportunity.

Quicksilver has steadily decreased in value for the last five years, and the metal worth \$1.65 five years ago is now quoted at 35 cents, and it hardly pays to work. However, most all mines have a store or trading post, and a great deal is made in this way, and almost makes it pay to keep things going ahead even at the present low price. And again, the machinery of a mine if allowed to run to waste soon becomes worthless.

The approach to New Idria is not very interesting or exciting. You take the Southern Pacific from San Francisco, and branching off at Tracy go to Tre-Pines, the end of the extension.

We arrived there at 2 o'clock on a terribly hot day, and remembering the name, me thought I'd seek the sheltering shade of the three pines. Three or four houses on an arid bluff and no tree anywhere formed the scene. Evidently the man who christened the place was gifted with great sarcasm.

After crossing Monterey bay divide the air becomes very oppressive, and when the sign-board Elk Horn station appeared we rejoiced, as this was our stopping place for the night.

It was not as clean a place as one would like, and water, towels, and soap seemed very scarce. Indeed it took great circumlocution to get the articles in question, the landlady saying:

"Well, gentlemen, we've had no woman round this ranch for some time and things are kinder out o' kit."

Oh how I sighed for a "fam" and for the order and comfort they might give to Elk Horn station. I was shown to my cubbyhole of a room, my conductor comfortably remarking that "the sheets were clean, even if the room and bed were dirty."

I am a camper out, and like the majority will put up with anything while in the field; but when we come into town everything must be just right, and woe to the one who brings in a plate with even a small speck to mar its golden beauty, or happens to neglect to give on a clean napkin.

Elk Horn, however, there were many specks and putting aside my fastidious notions, I ate cold bread, bacon, and beans with a camp relish.

Our next day's journey was through Pineche valley and "the vallecaitas." Coming to the foothills of the mountains we were soon at the mines situated just under the Idria and San Carlos peaks.

There is no hotel there, and but for the kindness of my friend, Dr. McPherson, I hardly know where we would have located. Indeed, we all of the survey were much indebted to him and to Mr. Maxwell, the superintendent, for their extreme politeness.

From San Carlos peak there is a fine view of the surrounding country to the west. Below can be seen the great cliffs gradually lowering to the plain below, with ravines hither and thither, most of the ridges having prominent crags, which at once catch the eye. On the other side of the valley is the San Joaquin divide, a mountainous mass of rock and dirt. The topography is so marked as to remind one of the plaster profile casts that are generally made of the Rocky mountains. In the dim distance across the San Joaquin valley rise the lofty snow capped Sierras.

The main mountains form an impenetrable background, and the white soil and scattering vines make up a most barren sight, and you can with no desire for further investigation.

There is an upper and a lower mine, most of the building being situated at the lower workings. The tunnel below extends some 3,500 feet into the mountains, and is connected with the upper location by a shaft some five or six hundred feet deep.

Most of the miners are Mexicans, however, a few Cornishmen, who make Rome howl and whisky and beer run low every favorable opportunity.

The Mexican is great for dancing, and always in for a good time, spending his last nickel when he hardly knows when he will get his next meal. Indeed, the frequent dances and they generally last all night as the beer and whisky, or until some fellow being pretty drunk, begins to handle his pistol in a carless manner. The fourth of July was a gay day. They started the dance the evening before the fourth, and kept it up the greater part of the following day and night.

It is surprising how well they dance, and some of the figures are very pretty, especially the dance called "contra." One of our party danced two or three times consecutively with the same girl. A young Mexican, probably a jealous lover, walked up to him and hissed out, "Muchacho, you'll get hurt if you dance again with the señorita." Our young man concluded he had seen enough, and thought it best to take his leave.

At the time of our arrival at Idria the Mexicans had a great religious excitement, and were wild with fervor. About twenty miles away is a large rock with an immense aperture or cave. Some one heard a voice in the cave and imagined Christ was talking out of it. Some one else imagined that he saw the Virgin Mary walking over the hills. This was enough. Bringing everything they possessed, families moved to the sacred spot, and soon "La Queva" had over a hundred devout worshippers. Of course, some one or two men assuming control carried out the farce, and one of them occasionally entering the cave would talk to the people outside, who would imagine themselves in a sacred haven. The excitement, however, died away in time, and the people left the shrine most of them barefoot and with hardly a cover for their backs.

Notwithstanding the heat and the alkali waters at New Idria I was quite sorry to leave when my detail came to the northern division, as one becomes attached to a party after a companionship of a year or so, and feels at home.

But here, camped almost under Mount Shasta's shadow, in one of California's most beautiful spots, I forgot my previous trials, and say "camping out forever." M. B. K.

Jumped the Track.

GALVESTON, TEXAS, Aug. 27.—A special dispatch to the News from Waco says: A south bound passenger train on the Texas and St. Louis railway last night jumped the track and the engine and the entire train landed at the bottom of a fifteen foot embankment upside down. The lights were all extinguished and the passengers groped their way out of the windows as best they could. Strange to say no one was fatally injured, and the only ones seriously hurt were Mrs. Chamberlain, who was badly bruised, and her child, who had his wrist sprained.

An Editor Arrested for Libel.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 27.—Dr. J. C. Beck, a member of the board of health, has caused warrants to be issued for the arrest of P. B. Ross and F. B. Gessner, of the *Penny Post*, for criminal libel, that paper having printed statements that Beck had received pay for making appointments. Ross surrendered to police authorities to-day. Gessner is not at home.

Miss Gould's Body Recovered.

WELLS, ME., Aug. 27.—The body of Miss Emma Gould, one of the victims of the recent drowning accident, was recovered to-day. Three bodies have now been found, those of Miss Safford and Mr. Thayer having been recovered yesterday.

Railway Accident.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, Aug. 27.—A dispatch from Steubenville, Ohio, to the *Times* says that there was an accident on the Panhandle road this morning, near Mine junction,

within a hundred yards of the scene of the great disaster of 1875. An east bound freight train collided with a Cincinnati express passenger train. Both engines and one postal car were wrecked. Engineer Charles Wolf, of Dennison, Ohio, and Clerks William M. Newman and John R. Hoyt, both of Indianapolis, were injured, the latter fatally.

THE BROKEN BROKERS.

Large Liabilities and Paltry Assets of E. C. Stedman & Co.

NEW YORK, Aug. 27.—The schedule of the firm of E. C. Stedman & Co., the brokers, were filed to-day in the court of common pleas. The nominal indebtedness of the firm is placed at \$17,040, while the actual liabilities are \$102,490. The nominal assets are \$81,047, and the actual assets, \$33,877. Among the largest creditors are the National Bank of the Republic, \$20,000, and the Bank of North America, \$35,000, for money borrowed. These banks held as collateral security for these loans several thousand shares of stock in various companies which are now of the nominal value of \$35,500, and which after the payment of the loans, will represent a balance of \$8,500. Among the other creditors the firm are Mrs. Emma C. West, \$2,229; Mrs. Jennie L. Cross, \$2,500; Mrs. L. S. Williams, \$1,000; Mrs. D. D. Holbrook, \$1,500; W. L. Jones, New York, \$2,553; W. T. Whiting, St. Johns, N. B., \$1,058; J. Holbrook, New York, \$1,821; T. T. Dumont, Summit, N. J., \$5,337. These amounts represent the balance due to customers of the firm for stock transactions in their private accounts. The assets of the firm include \$7,550 in cash on deposit with John McGinnis, the assignee, and various small amounts due on private accounts. The private estate of E. C. Stedman is valued at \$4,000, which includes his library and copy rights, valued at \$3,000. His contingent liability amounted to \$5,672. Frederick S. Stedman has no private assets, and the extent of his private indebtedness to the firm of Cecil, Ward & Co. could not be ascertained, as thus far no information could be obtained from them.

GONE TO PARTS UNKNOWN.

A Leading Citizen, After Various Forgeries, Disappears from View.

TRENTON, N. J., Aug. 27.—The Trenton Times to-day contained a long account of the alleged defalcation of Capt. John Hall, one of New Brunswick's leading citizens and a prominent Pennsylvania railroad contractor. Hall disappeared one week ago Saturday, and his whereabouts are unknown. Hall had charge of the work being done by the Pennsylvania railroad company, laying the third and fourth tracks from Holmeida to New Brunswick. He made all the contracts for the work, or influenced the giving out of the contracts. After Hall had been absent a few days persons to whom he was under financial obligations commenced an investigation. At first it appeared that many persons in different places had indorsed Hall's notes or loaned him money, but on Saturday, it is alleged, evidence was discovered of more serious offenses than unpaid debts. It is stated that forged notes aggregating between twenty and thirty thousand dollars were discovered as to these statements are hard to obtain, as the principal sufferers are understood to be Hall's friends, and they remain with the amount of their losses. In this city Hall has borrowed sums ranging from \$100 to \$8,000. Cornelius Hardberger and Thomas Warren are said to be the principal sufferers in New Brunswick. The entire loss there will probably amount to \$30,000.

Entertaining Lord Coleridge.

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Lord Coleridge, son of Sir James Hannan, and his son, E. S. Jaffray, Judge Rapallo, Elliot F. Shepard, and several other guests left this morning on a yachting and sight seeing tour up the Hudson. They will return this afternoon.

The German statesmen and others embracing the party brought over by Mr. Villard to witness the opening ceremonies of the Northern Pacific railroad left this morning for Dobbs Ferry, Mr. Henry Villard's country seat, where they will spend the day, returning to the city this evening. To-morrow they will go to Niagara Falls, and thence to Chicago.

The Chautauqua Meeting.

CHAUTAUQUA, N. Y., Aug. 27.—The closing exercises of the tenth assembly were impressive. President Lewis Miller, of Akron, Ohio, Superintendent John H. Vincent and Dr. B. M. Adams, of New York, made the closing addresses. Dr. Vincent announced that the school of languages and the teachers' retreat would open on July 12, 1884, and that the regular eleventh assembly would open on Aug. 5.

Latest from New Mexico.

CITY OF MEXICO, Aug. 27.—It is reported that an American syndicate has purchased the Real del Monte company's mines for \$4,000,000. The Real del Monte company has turned out a great success.

The city council has authorized Seniors Salvador Maha and Manuel Alvarez to contract a loan in London for \$400,000, the money to be employed in city improvements.

Escaped from a Delaware Jail.

WILMINGTON, DEL., Aug. 27.—Five prisoners escaped from the Dover jail last Saturday night and are still at large. Among the number were Bob Allen and Henry Raisin, notorious negro burglars, who were leaders of a gang which carried on extensive thieving operations in Kent county. The others who escaped were Henry Watson, white, and Joe Cook and Israel Loote, colored.

SWISS STEAM LAUNDRY.

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